(d) Action as per provisions contained in the Indian Penal Code (IPC) is taken against the persons involved in printing and circulation of fake currency notes.

Provision of computer facility of Panchayats

2260. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to provide computer operated by car battery to every Panchayat with a view to connect the same with Information Technology;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of plan Central Government are having to fulfil the requirement of power therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANISHANKAR AIYAR): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) In the seventh Round Table of Ministers in charge of Panchayati Raj held at Jaipur, it was recommended that States should consider specifying a framework for common standard for hardware and put in place a system for transparent procurements through competitive bidding. Funds for acquisition of hardware could be dovetailed from various sources and could include:

(i) Infrastructure funds available in multilateraliy funded projects,

(ii) own incomes of Panchayats,

(iii) Funds recommended by the Finance Commission for the creation and maintenance of Databases,

(iv) Funds sourced from a fund to be created and managed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj,

(v) MP and MLA Local Area Development Funds,

(vi) Purchases based on systems of annuity based purchases.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

It was also decided in the seventh Round Table that considering the present power situation in the country, while procuring hardware, special attention shall be paid to providing reliable and uninterrupted power supply to computer systems. Special emphasis shall be placed on renewable energy devices and systems that consume less energy.

A copy of the recommendations made during the seventh Round Table Conference is given in the Annexure. [See Appendix 204, Annexure No. 21]

A set of around 150 points for action were evolved during the Round Tables and adopted by consensus at the seventh Round Table in Jaipur. The Ministry has now initiated a process of visiting each of the States/UTs to review with the authorities concerned the progress in implementing the points for action contained in the compendium. It is expected that this will accelerate the pace of implementation of the provisions of Part IX, read with Article 243ZD, of the Constitution and bring about greater conformity, in both letter and spirit, to the Constitutional provisions of Panchayati Raj in all States/UTs concerned.

Autonomy to Panchayats

2261. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

SHRI R. K. ANAND: Will the Minister of

PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Panchayats in India have not been given full functional, financial and administrative autonomy;

(b) if so, the reasons for the same;

(c) the details of States/UTs which have not devolved any fund to the PRIs; and

(d) what steps Government propose to initiate to enable Panchayats to function as institution of self Government?